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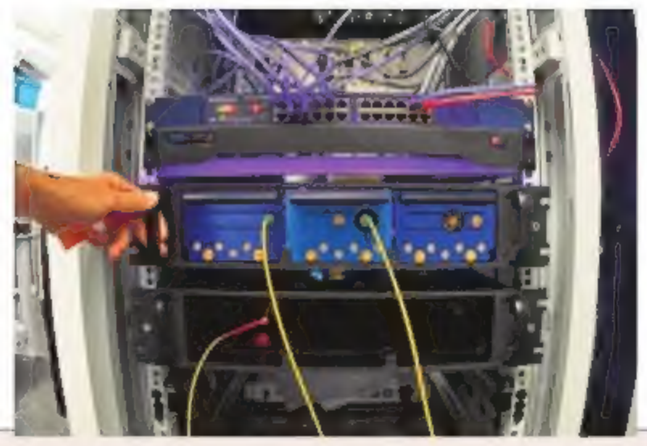

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DATA LOCALISATION STICKING ISSUE IN INDIA-U.K. FTA DEAL

UK's demands that its firms be allowed to take data out of India and bid for public contracts emerge as major hurdles

LIGHTER DEAL EXPECTED BY DIWALI DEADLINE

While negotiators are scrambling to strike a deal before Diwali, the UK's *Daily Telegraph* reported that a number of stumbling blocks remain. As such, both sides are expected to agree to a "light" deal, that could be the first of many. This would be a setback for the new UK government of Liz Truss, which was looking to strike a major post-Brexit trade deal

U.K. RELUCTANT ON EASING VISA RULES

- The UK is yet to agree to India's demands for relaxation of visa and immigration rules for Indians workers and students with home secretary Suella Braverman strongly opposing it
- Analysts say talks on key issues of migration and tariffs may continue towards a non-time-bound second-phase | P9

$26.9 billion

PRESENT SIZE OF ANNUAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.K.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

AAP minister quits as pledge row snowballs

Says he attended event in personal capacity

UJWAL JALALI @New Delhi

EMBATTLED AAP minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Sunday resigned from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's cabinet, adding a new twist to the drama, days after he stoked a controversy by participating in a mass religious conversion event here and subsequently apologised.

"The BJP is doing dirty politics. I do not want my leader Arvind Kejriwal or the party to be in any trouble because of me," he said in his resignation letter.

A video clip of a mass conversion of Dalits to Buddhism in Delhi that went viral embarrassed the AAP as Hindu deities were denounced in a pledge at the event. After Kejriwal conveyed his displeasure, apparently because the BJP had weaponised the clip against the AAP in poll-bound Gujarat, Gautam apologised on Friday but changed tack on Sunday.

The viral video clip had showed Gautam and others taking a pledge saying, "We will not worship Hindu gods and goddesses... I shall have no faith in Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara, nor shall I worship them. I shall have no faith in Rama and Krishna, who are believed to be the incarnation of God, nor shall I worship them."

Clearing the air

"The pledges... were published in Volume 17 of *Dr Balasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches* when BJP's Thawar Chand Gehlot was minister," Gautam said

In his resignation letter in Hindi, Gautam sought to distance the AAP from the event, saying, "I participated in it on October 5 in my personal capacity." Rajratana Ambedkar, the great-grandson of Dr B R Ambedkar, read out 22 pledges people take while embracing Buddhism at the event. He and others repeated them, Gautam said.

If Gautam hoped for the dust to settle, he was mistaken, as Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta termed his resignation a 'victory for Hindus', adding it didn't show any remorse. The Opposition demanded the resignations of Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain over allegations of corruption.

You have given me loads of affection. You have seen my work and keep on ratifying it with your votes. Not only me, you bless all my colleagues too

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Guj's Modhera is India's first fully-solar village

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared Modhera in Gujarat as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village, even as he sought to further cement his connect with the poll-bound state, saying people there had showered affection and given him electoral victories without looking at his caste.

"You never saw my caste, you never saw my political life. You gave your blessings for the last two decades," he said.

Regarding Modhera, which also has a famous Sun Temple, Modi said, whenever people discuss solar energy in the world, this village will feature in it. "Government produces electricity and people purchase it. But we want people to be producers of power. Don't pay for electricity; sell it and earn from it instead," he urged.

"People of Modhera are both consumers and producers of electricity. The government is purchasing additional generated power. Such successful attempts must be replicated across the country," he added.

The solarisation of the Modhera Sun Temple and town happened through partnership between the Central and state governments. It involved integrating the village with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sujjanpura in Mehsana, about 6 km away from the Sun Temple.

More than 1,300 rooftop solar systems have been installed on houses for power generation. While day time power comes from the solar panels, at night it is supplied from the BESS.

Modhera is also happens to be the first modern village having a solar based modern electric vehicle charging station.

DOUBLE 'I' CRUSH PROTEAS

Shreyas Iyer struck a sublime century, while Ishan Kishan displayed his brute force against a formidable South African attack to set up a series-levelling, seven-wicket win for India in the second ODI in Ranchi on Sunday. Mohammed Siraj led an inexperienced Indian bowling lineup brilliantly to restrict the Proteas to 278/7 | P11 | P11

DAY AFTER, UDDHAV SUGGESTS 3 NAMES, SYMBOLS TO EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

SHIV Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday submitted three symbols – trident, rising sun and burning torch – to the Election Commission of India and requested it to approve one of them, a day after the poll panel barred both his and Eknath Shinde-led factions of the party from using Sena's name or symbol.

Uddhav said his party has also submitted three names to the EC: Shiv Sena Balasaheb Thackeray, Shiv Sena Balasaheb Prabodhankar Thackeray, and Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray.

Addressing his supporters, Uddhav said the BJP is trying to finish off the Sena. He pointed out that during the Emergency, some leaders had requested Indira Gandhi to finish off Shiv Sena, but she did not take such a drastic action. "Congress never tried to finish us as a political party, but the BJP is trying to do it. So, who is more dangerous? The Congress or the BJP? I want to tell them that I will not run away from this battleground. I am here to fight," Uddhav said.

Congress never tried to finish us as a political party, but the BJP is trying to do it. So, who is more dangerous? The Congress or the BJP? I want to tell them that I will not run away from this battleground. I am here to fight

Uddhav Thackeray, Shiv Sena leader

"The traitors first took my chair by cheating and also tried to appropriate Shiv Sena and its legacy. Now they ensured that the symbol (bow and arrow) is frozen," he rued. He challenged the Shinde camp to face the elections without using Balasaheb Thackeray's name. "I still challenge them to exclude the name of Balasaheb Thackeray and face elections. They want his name, his party, but not his son," he said. Uddhav also warned that MLAs in the Shinde camp would soon find themselves disqualified.

EXPRESS READ

Muslims too following family planning: Owaisi

Hyderabad: Muslims use family planning tool, condom, the most in order to maintain a gap between two children, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has claimed, responding to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent population remark. "Where is it (population) increasing Bhagwat saab," he asked | P5

Running for Cong top job to fight BJP: Kharge

New Delhi: Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said he is contesting the election for the party president's post "to fight against the BJP and the RSS". Kharge said the situation prevailing in the country is "worrisome" and accused the BJP of "weakening" autonomous bodies, such as the CBI, ED and the income tax department.

Cardboard used to dress fractured leg in MP hosp

Bhopal: Yet another shocking incident has exposed the real state of public health facilities in Madhya Pradesh. In Bhind district, the staff at a government health facility in the Rauna area reportedly used cardboard instead of plaster cast to dress the fractured leg of an accident victim | P8

Upper caste people attack Dalit in Kolar village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolar

A DALIT man was allegedly beaten up over 15 people from an upper caste community for performing a puja at a temple in Dodduru Village of Bangarpet taluk. The Budikote police registered a case of assault and atrocity and arrested two people. The search is on for others who are absconding.

Following the complaint, SP Dharani Devi visited the spot along with other top police officials and spoke to the villagers.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi meets Shobha, mother of a 15-year-old boy, who was fined for touching a deity at Ullerahalli village in Malur taluk

Sources said that Muniraju, a resident of Gottaluru, filed the complaint, stating that he visited Doddapura, which is next to his village, to perform the puja at Gangamma temple. At that time, Chandrappa, a resident of Doddapura, his close relative Siddaiah and 15 upper caste people assaulted him, leaving him with bleeding injuries in his head.

Following his complaint, the Budikote police arrested Chandrappa and Siddaiah.

Recently, the family of a Dalit boy was fined ₹60,000 after he touched the idol of the village deity Boothamma at Ullerahalli in Malur taluk. In another incident, villagers of Chintamani taluk in Chikkaballapur district allegedly tied up a minor boy to a pole and beat him up, accusing him of stealing gold ornaments of an upper community girl.

In Kolar Devanahalli, the upper caste people refused to take out a procession of Sree Kateeramma and Gangamma deities through an area where Dalits reside. The incident led to clashes between the two groups in which several were injured. The police brought the situation under control.

MEHBOOBA LAUDS RAHUL FOR BHARAT JODO

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday lauded Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his Bharat Jodo Yatra and said people need to support him as he is fighting to safeguard the country and its democratic institutions from BJP onslaught.

Water pipe bursts in Kundalahalli, road sinks

NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

WATER supply and traffic movement were impacted when the Cauvery water pipeline burst and a gaping sinkhole formed on the road at Kundalahalli Junction on Sunday.

BWSSB Chief Engineer Suresh B said the pipe burst was reported around 5.30 am, and the crack was 450mm wide. A small crack could have led to water leakage and compacting of loose soil increasing the pressure on the pipe and causing it to burst, he added.

However, repair work was completed by evening and water supply was restored, he said. The Mahadevapura Task Force said the pipe burst was expected to affect Cauvery water supply in Munnekolala, Thubarahalli, AECS, BEML Layouts, Kundalahalli, and traffic for 48 hours. P2

The repair work underway of the Cauvery water pipe which burst, resulting in a gaping sinkhole at Kundalahalli Junction on Sunday | EXPRESS

No board exams for Std 5, 8, only evaluation: Minister

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

SCHOOL Education and Literacy Minister BC Nagesh on Sunday clarified on the issue of conducting examinations for Class 5 and Class 8 students, saying they will be more like evaluations.

He told the media that there is no intention of conducting the exam on the same model as the SSLC board and the department is considering conducting evaluations for Class 5 and Class 8 students. He said the issue will be discussed during the next departmental review meet on October 13. "We are not thinking of conducting any exam. Instead, we are considering an alternative way of evaluation. A more clear image will be given after the meeting in a few days," he said.

Meanwhile, sources within the education department said the move is part of the National Education Policy (NEP). "As part of the 5+3+3+4 system of education, we are trying to implement a method of evaluation so that we can assess how students are fairing in their learning. This is as opposed to the no-detention policy where students are passed without any attention to how they are doing in their classes and what can be done to help them," they told TNIE. They said the discussion is still in early stages and no concrete picture has emerged yet on implementation and how the method of evaluation will work. "However, if implemented, this will not be done at the state level, but at the school level. There will, however, be measures taken to ensure uniformity in the evaluations," they said.

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